

## Joshua Chapter 8

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- **Chapter 6** describes the victory over Jericho. Then **Chapter 7** starts with a big “but” – but Israel sinned... **Chapter 8** starts with a grand “And” meaning that after the nation dealt with their sin, the sin of Achan the next sentence starts “And the Lord spoke to Joshua...”
- We’re like Joshua and the nation of Israel; there are times when we stumble and fall, when perhaps we quench or grieve the Spirit of God through our sin; then when we deal with it Biblically:

**1 John 1:9** “If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

- The next thing we find is that God is speaking to us, pointing us towards the next victory, the next step in our walk with Him.

### Isaiah 30:21

- There are times when we are going to fail – the issue is are we going to stay down, lying in the filth of our sin, or are we going to by the grace of God get up and get going again?

**Psalm 37:23-24** <sup>23</sup>The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and He delighteth in his way. <sup>24</sup>Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with His hand.”

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V: 1-2 The Lord speaks to Joshua telling him to go to Ai and take it; He’s given it into their hand.

- Take all the people of war: 630,000 men.
- There is a big difference between deciding to go on our own vs: being sent by God.

**John 15:5b** “... apart from Me ye can do nothing.”

- This time the victory will be theirs, they will do to Ai what they did to Jericho, except that they get to keep the spoil.
- If Achan had just been a little more patient he would have had all he wanted.

**Ephesians 3:20** “Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”

- God gives them a battle plan, an ambush.

V: 3-13                    30,000 men - 10 X's what was sent out before.

- The bulk of the group – up to 600,000 men will feign the attack then flee as with the previous attack – drawing the defenders out of their city.
- 5,000 men are sent out between Ai & Beth-El to cut off the escape route of any towards Beth-El.
- When they chase the children of Israel, leaving their city open and un-defended – the 30,000 lying in wait will take the city and burn it.

**Romans 8:28**            “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”

- The previous defeat at Ai is now used as a ruse to draw the enemy out of their city into an ambush.

V: 9    “Joshua lodged that night among the people.” In the midst of His people.

**Exodus 30:46**            “And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, that brought them forth out of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I am the Lord their God.”

V: 13    “Joshua went that night unto the midst of the valley.”

**Psalms 23:4**            “Yea thou I walk thru the shadow of the valley of death, I will fear no evil for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

V: 14-25    The king of Ai saw what was going on, or so he thought, and he went out to battle.

V: 18    The Lord said to Joshua, stretch out the spear...” Joshua has a spear, he’s ready for battle!

- God is calling the shots, directing the battle.

**2 Chronicles 20:15b**            “... be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God’s.”

- The men of Ai were caught between the two groups and annihilated.

V: 26-27    Joshua drew not his hand back – following God’s direction that all be killed.

- The king is killed, the spoil is taken.

V: 28-29    As Joshua burnt Ai, he tossed the carcass of the king into the midst, and raised a great heap of stones as a memorial.

- One day our Joshua, Jesus – will do the same:

**Revelation 20:10** “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

- Joshua wrote this book towards the end of his life, at that time the heap of stones was still there.

V: 30-31 Joshua builds an altar – indicative of worship.

- Moving past Beth-El, North into Samaria towards Shechem.
- Abraham first built an altar there when he came into the land, Jacob dug a well there.
- Shechem is the approximate center of Israel North to South, and East to West.
- (Map) Mt. Ebal is just across from Mt. Gerizim with the city of Shechem in the valley between the two.
- An altar of un-cut stones: un-altered by man.
- Nothing that would draw attention to man – that God only would be glorified.

**Isaiah 42:8** “I am the Lord: that is my name: and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images.”

- Not focused or distracted by the altar, but focused on the sacrifice upon the altar.
- Burnt offerings of consecration, re-dedication & peace offerings – fellowship, communion with God.

V: 32-33 Joshua wrote a copy of the law upon the stones – chiseled into the rock; intended to be an enduring reminder for all the people to see.

*In the New Testament, we take on that role:*

**2 Corinthians 3:3** “Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.”

1. Chiseled into the rock: an external reminder.
  2. Written by the Holy Spirit on fleshy tables of the heart: an internal reality.
- Then the people are gathered against Mt. Gerizim on one side and Ebal on the other with the ark and the priest in between – the priests calling out God’s word,

the blessings and the cursings, and the people saying Amen! Affirming God's word just like Moses commanded back in Deuteronomy.

V: 34-35 Then Joshua gathered all the people, men, women, and children and read the entire book of Deuteronomy to them, every word.

- All in one "standing".
- The promise land represents the victorious Christian life which is dependant on and focused upon obedience to God's word, hence the reading of it to the people.

**Isaiah 26:3** "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

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## *Joshua Chapter 9*

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- In Exodus and Deuteronomy God commanded the people not to make any agreements or treaties with the inhabitants of the land. They were to destroy all their temples, altars, and places of worship, and they were to utterly wipe out the people, not sparing young or old.
- The reason for this was that the religious practices of the Canaanites, Hivites, and the rest were so vile and despicable, and they were un-repentant. God had given them an additional 400 years to repent of their sin and they did not. God wanted to protect the children of Israel from this corrupting influence, knowing that it would lead to the death of the people and nation.
- God was using the children of Israel as His instrument of judgment upon these people groups. At times people have a real problem with God ordering the complete extermination of these groups of people, but they are often the same people who have a hard time with a God that judges sin.

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V: 1-2 The inhabitants of the land hear what has happened to Jericho and Ai, along with the previous things about Og king of Bashan and Sihon king of Heshbon, Pharaoh, the Red Sea, and the Jordan River.

- They unite with one accord to fight Joshua.

Later the rest of the world unites to fight Jesus:

**Revelation 17:13-14** <sup>13</sup>These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. <sup>14</sup>These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful."

- In these and in the following verses we see both the direct attack, which being more obvious seems like it's easier to deal with, the roaring lion of **1 Peter 5:8**; then there is the more subtle attack – that which requires a greater degree of discernment, the beguiling serpent of **2 Corinthians 11:3**.

**1 Peter 5:8** “Be sober be vigilant, because your adversary the devil as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour.”

**2 Corinthians 11:3** “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

V: 3-6        The Gibeonites who were part of the Hivites worked “wilily” (1x in Bible) – by trickery, subtly, discretion, wisdom.

- They didn't join with the confederation that also included the other Hivites – they figured that this was their best chance at survival.
- The Gibeonites knew that God had commanded the children of Israel to wipe everybody out, there would be no prisoners and they had seen the fulfillment of this in all their previous and highly visible victories.
- They also knew that while this applied to the inhabitants of the land, those from afar were not under the same judgment:

Speaking of cities outside of Canaan:

**Deuteronomy 20:10, 15** “<sup>10</sup>When thou comest nigh unto a city to fight against it, then proclaim peace unto it.” – “<sup>15</sup>Thus shalt thou do unto all the cities which are very far off from thee, which are not of the cities of these nations.”

- Thus the emphasis we're from very far away, so make a treaty with us...
- The Gibeonites played the part with old clothes and old bread.
- It was unusual for a group of people to approach the children of Israel, the first we've seen, usually it is the other way around.
- The request: make a league / peace treaty with us.

**Exodus 34:12** “Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee.”

V: 7-8        The children of Israel knew that they were not supposed to make any treaties with the inhabitants – “how can we do this?”

**Deuteronomy 20:16-18** “<sup>16</sup>But of the cities of these people, which the Lord thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that

breatheth: <sup>17</sup>But thou shalt utterly destroy them; namely, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee: <sup>18</sup>That they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the Lord your God.” (Corrupting influence)

- “We are your servants” – we would be your slaves.
- “Who are you and where are you from?” Joshua seems a little suspicious and needs discernment:
- Often times the Holy Spirit will give us a check in our spirit, we get suspicious and know something isn’t quite right even if we can’t put our finger on why – that is the Lord slowing us down – we need to take heed to that.

**Proverbs 3:5-7** <sup>5</sup>Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. <sup>6</sup>In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. <sup>7</sup>Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.”

**James 1:5** “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

V: 9-10 The best lies are those that are mixed with elements of the truth – there is no doubt that the great and mighty things the Lord has done are known to them – everybody knew these things.

V: 11-13 They are presenting information or proof that can be seen – but they need wisdom and understanding that cannot be seen.

**2 Corinthians 5:7** “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

**2 Peter 1:19** “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed,…”

V: 14-15 They took of their victuals – they received the lie.

- “*Oh what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry every thing to God in prayer...*”
- They didn’t ask counsel of God – big mistake!

**Psalms 19:7-8** <sup>7</sup>The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup>The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.”

**Psalm 119:130** “The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”

- In the NT we are warned against the same thing, alliances with non-believers, being un-equally yoked.

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18** “<sup>14</sup>Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? <sup>15</sup>And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? <sup>16</sup>And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>17</sup>Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, <sup>18</sup>and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

- Based on false information and his own understanding of things Joshua made peace with them, a league or peace treaty, agreement.
- The elders / nation then took an oath.

V: 16-21 After 3 days they learned of their mistake.

- They came upon their cities which were fairly close by, all just N/W of Jerusalem towards Tel Aviv – there is nothing left of them today.
- The children of Israel wanted to kill them but held back because of the oath involving the name of the Lord – they had sworn by the Lord God of Israel.
- They had been deceived, yet they sought to honor the Lord – even to their own hurt.

**Psalm 15:4** “In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but He honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.”

- Solution: make them slaves, place them under tribute – wood cutters and water haulers.

V: 22-27 Why did you beguile us? Answer: It was better than being killed!

- Therefore you are cursed: slaves for the rest of your lives.

**Exodus 34:12** “Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee.”

- In time to come the inhabitants of the land that were not destroyed would become a snare to the children of Israel because they were not obedient to destroy all their idols, nor all the people. The children of Israel would eventually turn away from worshipping the true and living God.
- God's Word is true, what He says will come to pass, His warnings are for good reason.

**Psalm 19:9-11**      “<sup>9</sup>The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. <sup>11</sup>Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”